

FIGHTING SPIRIT CHEERED

59/60

LEICESTER CITY 3, LUTON TOWN 3

I THOUGHT this was going to be a triumphant story with the theme of "Hope born anew." In the event, the result left the Town exactly the same in their relationship in the League table with Leicester.

But it was a close thing because, in a match of changing fortunes, it was not until four minutes from the end that Leicester equalised for the third time to save a point.

From the Town point of view, there was satisfaction in that they scored three times for the first time in a League match this season, which perhaps points to returning power and confidence in the forward line.

Yet, I wonder whether this latest formation is going to be the final answer. Much of what success was attained was achieved by Bingham, who was very largely concerned in the first two goals, and was always the man from whom Leicester could expect most danger.

He shone like a beacon on a somewhat drab scene in which the football only momentarily rose above what was generally expected from these two struggling teams.

Most of what cultured movements there were came from the Town, but this match was too tension-laden, with far too much hanging on the result, to expect real constructive skill.

In the general run of things a point from this ground would have been gratefully received, but the plain fact was that the Town desperately needed both.

It was a see-saw sort of struggle, with the Town holding the lead three times and their defence yielding as many against concentrated pressure which was brought more by desperation than real football ability.

Of the defenders, Kelly had a strong game against Keyworth and Dunne finally came out on top from a rare tussle with Wills. Daniel's coolness was again in evidence and Groves was the better of the wing-halves, because Pacey still has some way to come before his confidence is fully back.

Collier had a somewhat difficult time and could maybe be faulted for at least one of the goals.

Forward, there was not the rhythm we are looking for, which, I suppose, was not to be expected immediately after a reshuffle such as this.

The most cheering thing from the Town point of view was the fighting spirit. Before the match the manager asked for a supreme effort and he could scarcely have expected more determination than he got.

Attendance: 16,700.